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RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF EL TORO ARTIFACTS

According to information available online (see Doc.004 INTERPRETATION OF ANALYSIS OF POTTERY PIECES (Spanish) (<http://staraztlan.org/documents/doc-004-interpretation-of-analysis-of-pottery-pieces-spanish/>)), in 2013, Mexican chemist Maria Luisa Trujillo, on the initiative of the public organization Nahui Ollin, carried out a chemical analysis of two ceramic artifacts found in the El Toro zone, Mexico.

Unfortunately, there are no photos or information about the origin of these artifacts.

Results of the analysis and conclusions:

- Both samples show reddish stains, suggesting that iron-rich clay and oxygen firing were used.
- The “loss on ignition” at 845°C was above 15%. This suggests that the ceramic samples were fired at a lower temperature. Most likely, this was a primitive production with open combustion at a temperature of 650-750°C.
- The ceramics are glazed. The low content of CaO (calcium oxide) in the samples indicates the use

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of natural soils with a small amount of lime, which facilitates the application of glaze, but the glaze requires a temperature of 900 °C. Based solely on the interpretation of the results of chemical analysis, it can be concluded that the manufacturer of the ceramics was not familiar with modern glaze production processes. The glaze present in the samples does not fully coincide with currently available glazes, and was produced at a lower temperature, which completely changes the nature of the coating.

Thus, the conducted analysis allows us to put forward the assumption that the analyzed artifacts were made in ancient times, although it is obvious that for more accurate conclusions it is necessary to use additional research methods, primarily thermoluminescent dating of ceramics.

Learner

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